

[8th August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

Participation of Foreign Equity in AI

1712. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to accept participation of foreign equity in Air India;
- (b) if so, to what extent;
- (c) whether the Minister has undertaken tours to Singapore and Malaysia in order to sort out the probabilities;
- (d) if so, with what result;
- (e) whether some proposals from other countries have also been received in this regard; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) The Government has approved in principle, bringing down the equity of the Government of India in Air India to 40% through a process of disinvestment by sale of 40% of equity to a strategic partner, upto 10% to employees, and the balance by sale to financial institutions and/or on the share market. In the event of the strategic partner being a joint venture with an element of foreign holding, the arrangement should be such as would limit foreign holding in Air India to a maximum of 26% of the total equity.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. At the invitation of the Singapore Government, the Minister (Civil Aviation) undertook a study tour of Singapore to see the airport and to discuss bilateral matters.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Committee on International Passenger Terminals at Delhi and Mumbai

†1713. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

DR. D. MASTHAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn to the newsitem which appeared in 'The Hindustan Times' dated the 17th July, 2000 under the caption

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.